Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method, performed by a device, comprising:

identifying, using a processor associated with the device, an implicitly defined semantic structure in a document, where a plurality of rules are associated with the implicitly defined semantic structure, and where the semantic structure includes a list having a header and a plurality of items associated with the header;

determining, using the processor, a location of a first term and a location of a second term within the list;

selecting, using the processor, one of the plurality of rules based on a relationship of the locations of the first and second terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure,

where a first rule of the plurality of rules is selected when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in a different one of the plurality of items,

where a second rule of the plurality of rules, different than the first rule, is selected when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in the same one of the plurality of items, and

where a third rule of the plurality of rules, different than the first rule and the second rule, is selected when the first term is located in the header and the second term is located in one of the plurality of items;

determining, using the processor, a distance value between the first and second terms using the selected rule; and

outputting, using the processor, the distance value to rank the document for relevancy to a search query that includes the first term and the second term.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the document being an HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) document.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~wherein~~ where the list is created with HTML tags.

4.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, ~~wherein~~ where the HTML tags include paragraph tags, new line tags, bold tags, or table tags.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

locating explicitly defined semantic structures.

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, the distance value being calculated as a word count between the first and second terms in the document augmented by ones of the rules related to the implicitly defined semantic structure.

8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ where identifying the implicitly defined semantic structure includes:

identifying repeating occurrences of a set of two or more text formatting commands.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently amended) A ~~device~~ system comprising:

a device comprising:

means for identifying an implicitly defined semantic structure associated with terms in a document, where a number of rules are associated with the implicitly defined semantic structure, and where the semantic structure includes a list including a header and a plurality of items associated with the header;

means for determining a location relationship between a pair of the terms within the list;

means for determining which one of the number of rules corresponds to the location relationship;

where a first rule of the number of rules is determined to correspond to the location relationship when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in a different one of the plurality of items;

where a second rule of the number of rules, different than the first rule, is determined to correspond to the location relationship when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in the same one of the plurality of items; and

where a third rule of the number of rules, different than the first rule and the second rule, is determined to correspond to the location relationship when the first term is located in the header and the second term is located in one of the plurality of items;

means for determining a distance value between the pair of terms based on the one rule;

means for generating a ranking score for the document based on the distance value; and

means for outputting the ranking score.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Currently amended) A method <u>performed by a device,</u> comprising:

identifying, using a processor associated with the device, a semantic structure associated with terms in a plurality of documents, where a number of rules are associated with the semantic structure, and where the semantic structure includes a list including a header and a plurality of items associated with the header;

locating, using the processor, a first term and a second term occurring within the list;

selecting, using the processor and based on a relationship of the locations of the first and second terms, at least one of the number of rules to be used in determining a distance value between the first and second terms;

where a first rule of the number of rules is selected when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in a different one of the plurality of items,

where a second rule of the number of rules, different than the first rule, is selected when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in the same one of the plurality of items, and

where a third rule of the number of rules, different than the first rule and the second rule, is selected when the first term is located in the header and the second term is located in one of the plurality of items;

determining, using the processor and using the at least one rule, the distance value between the first and second terms within the semantic structure when the first and second terms occur in a search query;

ranking, using the processor, the documents for relevancy to the search query

based on the determined distance value; and

outputting, using the processor, the rankings of the documents in response to the

search query.

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, ~~wherein~~ where the

semantic structure is implicitly defined.

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, ~~wherein~~ where the

semantic structure is identified prior to the ranking.

18.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, ~~wherein~~ where the

documents are HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) documents.

19.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, ~~wherein~~ where the semantic

structure includes lists created with HTML tags.

20.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, ~~wherein~~ <u>where</u> the HTML
tags include paragraph tags, new line tags, bold tags, or table tags.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Previously presented) A device comprising:

a memory; and

a processor coupled to the memory to:

      identify a semantic structure associated with a first term and a second term

occurring in a document, where a plurality of rules are associated with the

semantic structure, and where the semantic structure includes a list having a

header and a plurality of items associated with the header;

      determine a semantically based distance relationship between the first

term and the second term in the identified semantic structure;

      select one of the plurality of rules that corresponds to each of the distance

relationships;

          where the processor is configured to select a first rule of the

      plurality of rules when the first term is located in one of the plurality of

      items and the second term is located in a different one of the plurality of

      items,

where the processor is configured to select a second rule of the plurality of rules, different than the first rule, when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in the same one of the plurality of items, and

where the processor is configured to select a third rule of the plurality of rules, different than the first rule and the second rule, when the first term is located in the header and the second term is located in one of the plurality of items;

determine, using the selected rule, the semantically based distance value between the first term and the second term, where the first term and the second term occur in a search query;

rank the document for relevancy to the search query based on the semantically based distance value; and

provide at least some of the ranks in response to the search query.

23.   (Currently amended) The device of claim 22, <u>where</u> the processor ~~being~~ <u>is</u> further ~~configured~~ to:

locate implicitly defined semantic structures in the document; and

use the implicitly defined semantic structures in determining the semantically based distance value.

24.   (Currently amended) The device of claim 22, <u>where</u> the processor <s>being</s> <u>is</u> further <s>configured</s> to:

receive the search query.

25.   (Currently amended) A <u>memory device containing computer-executable instructions, the memory device</u> <s>method</s> comprising:

<u>one or more instructions to receive</u> <s>receiving</s> a search query;

<u>one or more instructions to identify</u> <s>identifying</s> an implicitly defined semantic structure associated with terms in documents, where a plurality of rules are associated with the implicitly defined semantic structure, and where the semantic structure includes a list having a header and a plurality of items associated with the header;

<u>one or more instructions to determine</u> <s>determining</s> a semantic<u>-</u>based distance between a first term and a second term within the list;

<u>one or more instructions to select</u> <s>selecting</s> one of the plurality of rules based on the semantic<u>-</u>based distance between the first and second terms within the implicitly defined semantic structure;

where a first rule of the plurality of rules is selected when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in a different one of the plurality of items,

where a second rule of the plurality of rules, different than the first rule, is selected when the first term is located in one of the plurality of items and the second term is located in the same one of the plurality of items, and

where a third rule of the plurality of rules, different than the first rule and the second rule, is selected when the first term is located in the header and the second term is located in one of the plurality of items;

one or more instructions to determine ~~determining~~, using the selected rule, a distance value for the first and second terms;

one or more instructions to rank ~~ranking~~ the documents for relevancy to the search query based on the distance value; and

one or more instructions to present ~~presenting~~ the documents in an order influenced by the ranking.

26. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ memory device of claim 25, ~~wherein~~ where the documents are HTML (Hyper-Text Markup Language) documents.

27. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ memory device of claim 26, the implicitly defined semantic structure including a list created with HTML tags.

28. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ memory device of claim 25, further comprising:

one or more instructions to locate ~~locating~~ explicitly defined semantic structures.